



EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 2.3.11 County Commission  
BY 263  
William A. Murdock  
Joe P. Skinner  
Steve White

## GALLATIN COUNTY

311 West Main, Rm. 306 • Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone (406) 582-3000  
FAX (406) 582-3003

### Gallatin County Testimony on House Bill 263

February 03, 2011

Representative Gary Maclaren, Chairman  
House Local Government Committee

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Representatives:

On behalf of the Gallatin County Commission we ask for your support of House Bill 263 by Representative Vance.

The Gallatin County Commission requested changes of this nature to Water and Sewer Districts to allow greater flexibility in a Water and Sewer District assessing the construction operation and maintenance of water or sewer infrastructure. The current Montana Code limits a district to picking only one assessment methodology. We have found that while the current system does work it lack the flexibility to allow a district to reassess collection methodology as a district changes.

For example, at the creation of a district the assessment method may have been on a per lot basis due to the large amount of undeveloped land. As the district develops with different types of use, the per lot assessment may not be as fair as it was when first instated. You may encounter one lot with cold storage facilities and one residential home and next to it a hotel with exponentially larger water and sewer usage; because both lots are assessed on a per lot basis they pay equally while the use is greatly different.

Passing the amendments in House Bill 263 would allow the Water and Sewer District to adjust their assessment methodology to increase fairness among residents, owners and users of a Water and Sewer District.

This bill does not add any new taxing authority or new assessment methodologies; it only allows more flexibility in how the existing tools of a special district are being used.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me: Michael Harris, Gallatin County Legislative Liaison, 311 West Main, Room 304, Bozeman, MT 59715, Phone: 406/582-3178, Cell: 406/580-3029, Email: [mike.harris@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:mike.harris@gallatin.mt.gov).

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

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